



## Minutes

### Hertfordshire Community Scrutiny Stop and Search Panel:

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2019**

**Panel Members Present:** Chris Cowdrey (CC), Marianne Murphy (MM), Marian Langley (ML), Caroline Malcolm (CM), Jeffrey Burke (JB), Roger Bosley (RB), Ben Platt (BP), Barbara Graham (BG), Mohammed Islam-Ruman (MR)

#### Hertfordshire OPCC/Constabulary

- Dr. Amie Birkhamshaw (OPCC, Director of Strategy) (AB)
- Matthew Pugh (OPCC, Policy and Project Officer) (MP)
- Nicola Dean (Hertfordshire Constabulary, Inspector Crime Reduction and Community Safety) (ND)

**Apologies:** Sharon Farquhar (SF), Danielle Turner (DT), Raeis Mur (RM), Michael Reeve (MR), Mutee-ur-Rehman Saifullah (MS)

The meeting was chaired by CC

#### 1) Welcome, introductions and apologies

CC introduced Inspector Dean. ND had previously worked with the Panel in her role as Inspector within Crime Reduction and Community Safety and had just returned from maternity leave.

#### 2) Approval of minutes and update on actions

The minutes of the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were agreed.

#### Update on actions:

- Action: For the Constabulary to redact names in a way in which individuals can be differentiated i.e. person one, person two etc...*Update:* ND agreed to pass this back to staff in her team and this would be included for all future Section 60 reviews.

#### 3) Review of September CSP Summary Data

BP highlighted the decline in positive outcome rates over the past two years. It was thought Section 60 searches may interfere with these statistics and therefore, it would be necessary to extract this data from the summary data the Panel receives.

BG identified that there had been a rise in the number of stop and searches for women. It was felt that this may be related to national concerns that women are now being asked to carry weapons as a tactic to avoid detection.

CC stated that North Herts had a relatively low positive outcome rate (12.5% out of 80 searches). AB clarified that this was related to a specific operation for firearms in North Herts.

There had been a small rise in the total number of searches.

Action 1: ND to ask the constabulary to check if and how the summary data for positive outcomes is updated when a positive disposal is recorded after the search form is completed.

Action 2: MP to put together an overview sheet of all Section 60s in the last 18 months.

Action 3: MP to write a new useful pointers sheet for positive outcomes and changes to GOWISELY guidance.

#### **4) Dip-sampling of Stop and Search Records and 5) Feedback**

Group one reviewed 12 records: The group felt confident in nine of the records reviewed and not confident for three. On one occasion it was unclear which individual was being searched. It was possible that there were two forms for the same individual. In the other two cases, the officer's grounds did not demonstrate how the individuals matched the description shown on PNC.

Group two reviewed 21 records: The group felt confident in 20 records reviewed. They did not feel confident in one record as the officer provided very little detail on the grounds for the search. In this case, the clothes and time of day were given as reason and the group felt this was insufficient to warrant a search.

Group three reviewed 18 records: The group felt confident in 15 records reviewed. The group was not confident in three records. In these cases the officers failed to appropriately detail how the individuals were acting suspiciously. Here the officers need to provide more narrative to show what intelligence they had received to warrant a search.

#### *Summary:*

Total records reviewed	51
Confident	44
Not confident	7
Unsure	0

Action 4: MP to highlight forms from 'student officers' to identify any trends relating to the recent recruitment of police constables.

#### **6) AOB:**

Update on the November strategy meeting:

22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2019

The Panel agreed to move the meeting to Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

**Date of next meeting:**

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019 (10:00 – 12:30) HFRS Training Centre, Longfield, Hitchin Road, Stevenage, Herts, SG1 4AE